GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:524
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
CELLULAR SERVICE IN RURAL AREAS
Hasan Chaudhary Munawwar;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Munshiram Shri ;Shahid Shri Mohammed;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has formulated a scheme for expansion of cellular service in rural areas as reported in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated June 18, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether introduction of cellular tower service is also under consideration in those rural areas where landline phones are not working properly;

(d) if so, whether the rural areas have been identified for providing the service and for installing towers there; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said towers are likely to be installed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Having covered towns upto District Headquarter, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has now planned to cover upto Sub-divisional Headquarters (SDHQs)/ Tehsil Headquarters (THQs) progressively in the expansions currently under execution. However, due to vast coverage of Highways, Railways routes and a number of important towns upto Tehsil Headquarters, many rural areas are getting incidental coverage of BSNL`s cellular services. Further BSNL is planning to extend the cellular coverage up to Block Head Quarter level progressively in the year 2006, which also would provide coverage to vast areas of population with the mobile service. However, no specific plans have been drawn to cover areas below Block Headquarters, at present.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.